

**Introduced by Senator Torlakson**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Chan and Koretz)

**(Coauthors: Senators Aanestad, Bowen, Escutia, and Ortiz)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Matthews and Nava)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4— Relative to public health awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 4, as introduced, Torlakson. Public health awareness.

This measure would encourage various government, community, school, and workplace activities in support of public health awareness and prevention of obesity and diabetes.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California is experiencing an epidemic of obesity  
2 and diabetes, costing the state financially and causing suffering,  
3 illness, and death for many Californians; and

4 WHEREAS, The new year provides an opportunity for  
5 individuals and organizations to assess the challenges ahead and  
6 make commitments for improvement in their personal and  
7 professional lives; and

8 WHEREAS, State leaders in all branches of government have  
9 recognized the problems of the epidemic, and through a  
10 bipartisan, inclusive commitment can lead the state toward  
11 increased physical activity and improved nutrition and wellness;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Cities, towns, counties, and special districts have  
14 opportunities to affect the epidemic positively through the built  
15 environment, planning, and programs in local communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Children spend a significant amount of time in  
2 school settings, and schools have opportunities to affect the  
3 epidemic positively by offering nutritious food and snacks,  
4 quality physical education and health studies, after-school  
5 programs, and school-based recreational activities; and

6 WHEREAS, Workplaces can improve productivity, promote  
7 health, and reduce liability costs by making available healthy  
8 food service and vending choices, increasing access to safe  
9 stairways, encouraging bicycling and walking for commuters,  
10 and making other changes related to employee health; and

11 WHEREAS, The state's unique climate and geography  
12 provides opportunities for enthusiasts and organizations to  
13 engage in recreational and physical activities that promote health  
14 and fitness; and

15 WHEREAS, The state has widespread access to fresh and  
16 healthy food because of its great agricultural production, fine  
17 restaurants, creative chefs, and health food advocates; and

18 WHEREAS, Health costs of the epidemic are dramatic, costing  
19 the state at least \$24 billion annually. Efforts to remedy the  
20 problem will pay for themselves by reducing these costs; and

21 WHEREAS, California is a leader in cultural trends throughout  
22 the nation and the world, and addressing the epidemic can  
23 provide a valuable model for other states and counties; and

24 WHEREAS, By establishing goals for reversing the epidemic,  
25 the state can account for progress by measuring the resources  
26 devoted to the problem along with the results of improved health  
27 and wellness; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages leadership in  
30 all branches and levels of government, local action by  
31 communities, initiatives by schools and workplaces, increased  
32 recreation and physical activity that is accessible for all  
33 Californians, expanded healthy food options in restaurants,  
34 markets, and homes, increased emphasis on health education and  
35 prevention of obesity and diabetes; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes that the state as a  
37 role model for increased physical activity and improved nutrition  
38 and wellness throughout the nation and the world; and be it  
39 further

1     *Resolved*, That the results of the efforts to reverse the obesity  
2 and diabetes epidemic to be measured in the years to come; and  
3 be it further

4     *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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